

0163-0707-2X

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

#19/D 8/19/02  
(AE)

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :

Kenji MIWA, et al. : EXAMINER: LIN, K

SERIAL NO: 09/158,099 :

CPA FILED: JUNE 19, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1722

FOR: METHOD OF REFINEMENT OF  
MICROSTRUCTURES OF  
METALLIC MATERIALS

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2002

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated January 31, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

A clean copy of the claims incorporating any amendment is shown below.

Please cancel Claims 16 and 17 without prejudice, and amend Claims 15 and 18 as follows:

15. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a refined microstructure of a metallic material and shifting a refined material to a periphery of a container to yield the refined material concentrated in an end portion of the metallic material, comprising:  
subjecting the molten metallic material to a solidification process at temperatures